

Safavians, the Neys and others and the Stephen Griles of the future before they have a chance to corrupt our system even more, to deliver to the American people a government as good and as honest as the people it represents.

I will come, before the day is out, and ask once again unanimous consent to appoint conferees in this legislation. The eyes of the country are upon us as to what we are going to do with ethics reform and lobbying reform in this Congress. Are we going to be prevented from completing this legislation? The answer is up to the minority, the Republicans.

Yesterday, I came to the floor to express appreciation to RICHARD LUGAR, the senior Senator from the State of Indiana, former chairman and current ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, for his comments on the tragic war in Iraq.

I have said on previous occasions that Democrats are virtually unanimous in our opposition to the war and united in our efforts to change course. But we face an obstinate President who refuses to hear the call of the American people. We face a Republican minority that has largely stood by his side as conditions in Iraq have deteriorated, and we have more than 3,500 dead Americans. I understand those who are wounded are approaching 30,000, a third of them grievously wounded.

Opposing the President of one's own party, especially on a war, is no small thing. And now Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, another key Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, has stepped forward along with Senator LUGAR to question what is going on in Iraq. In a letter to President Bush, Senator VOINOVICH urges the President to finally wake up to the truth so many of us already know: This war cannot be won militarily, can only be won politically, diplomatically, and economically. Senator JOHN WARNER said yesterday that he expects more Republicans to join our call for a responsible change of course.

When this war finally ends—and we are in the fifth year of this war, and it will end—this last period of time where we have had LUGAR, VOINOVICH, and WARNER speak out about the present situation in Iraq could be the turning point. This could be the moment when we break down the aisle that separates the two parties on Iraq.

So I say to my Republican colleagues who continue to follow President Bush's lead: Join with us. When I say "us," we now have at least five Republicans that I know of, and I would be happy to run through the names: HAGEL, SMITH, VOINOVICH, LUGAR, and WARNER have already spoken out. Join with us. We can extricate our troops from the firing line of another country's civil war. We can begin to rebuild our battered military so they can focus on the real threats we face around the world.

Remember what the National Council of Mayors did yesterday. They also

said, and voted by a majority, the war should end as soon as possible.

The first step has been taken by my Republican colleagues. We need more help. Now we need to put their brave words in action by working together to bring home our brave troops and deliver the responsible end to the war that the American people demand and deserve.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand the manager of the bill on the Republican side wishes to make a statement. I ask that it be made as in morning business. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Pennsylvania be recognized for 20 minutes and that at the conclusion of that 20 minutes, I be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the distinguished majority leader. I have sought recognition to comment on two subjects on the pending immigration bill.

First, it is my hope that my colleagues in the Senate will focus very closely on the extraordinary problems the United States faces today by the current status of our immigration laws and weigh very carefully, notwithstanding any objections people may have to the pending bill, the comparison of the bill with the status quo, what is in existence at the present time. The ultimate decision on whether to vote for or against the bill depends upon not what we would like to have, not what would be perfect, maybe not even what would meet the desires of the individual Members, but a comparison between what bill finally emerges and the status quo, what is happening at the present time, because what we really have in our immigration law is chaos and anarchy.

We struggled through legislation in the 109th Congress. It came through the Judiciary Committee, which I chaired in the 109th Congress, passed the Senate, and a different kind of a bill passed the House of Representatives. We could not go to conference, we did not resolve the issue, and it is back again this year. As I have said on a number of occasions on the floor, I think it probably would have been preferable to work through committee. I

think at this juncture, you can strike the "probably." It would have been preferable to work through committee in regular order. Whenever we leave regular order, we get into trouble.

So we structured it differently. We structured it with a hard-working group of Senators, up to 12, sometimes a rotating group, and we came up with a bill. We have been struggling with it on the Senate floor. We have found objections on all sides. We have found objections on the right that it is amnesty, and we have found objections on the left that it does not satisfy humanitarian needs and provide for family reunification, but we continue to push ahead. But I think it is plain that if the Senate does not come up with a bill, doing the best we can now, the subject will be cut off for the indefinite future. Certainly it will not come back up this year when we have a very crowded agenda on appropriations bills and patent reform and many other subjects. It is unlikely to come up next year in a Presidential and congressional election year. Then we are looking at 2009, and we have no reason to expect that the issue will be any easier in 2009 than it is today except that we would have lost more time.

We also ought to bear in mind that the Senate bill is not the final product. We will yet have a House bill, we will yet have conference, and we will yet have an opportunity to meet objections which are presently lodged against the bill.

Just a word of explanation. When I tear up, it is a result of chemotherapy; it is not a result of sadness on the current status of the immigration bill.

There is unity of judgment in both the House and the Senate, and I think broadly across America, that we need to reinstate the rule of law. We need to fix our broken borders. We need to have law enforcement against individuals who knowingly hire illegal immigrants. That is a very major part of the pending bill. The current bill provides for an increased Border Patrol from 12,000 to 18,000—6,000 new people.

It provides for additional fencing, although fencing was legislated in the 109th Congress. It provides for drones to fly overhead. It provides for fencing to protect urban areas. While you can't build an impenetrable fence of more than 2,000 miles above the border, we do cover a great deal of border protection. But no matter how secure the border is, as long as there is a magnet so people can get jobs in the United States which are better than other places, immigrants will be attracted, illegal immigrants will be attracted. That is why we have structured provisions in this bill to have foolproof identification so employers will be able to know with certainty whether an individual is a legal or an illegal immigrant. That being the case, if employers hire illegal immigrants knowing they are illegal immigrants because they are in a position to make that determination, it is fair to have sanctions, and for repeat offenders tougher